

ART 34 ADDT

CLAIMS

1. A method of obtaining a solution of calcium ions from lime, comprising
 - (i) treating the lime with an aqueous solution of a polyhydroxy compound of the formula $\text{HOCH}_2(\text{CHOH})_n\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ in which n is 1 to 6; and
 - (ii) optionally separating insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (i).
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the lime is carbide lime.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein insoluble impurities are separated from the solution resulting from (i).
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the lime is a product of the calcining of limestone or dolomite.
5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is glycerol.
6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, threitol or erythritol.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol.
8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as 10%-80% by weight solution in water.
9. A method as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as a 10% to 60% by weight solution.

10. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the glycerol is employed as a 60% to 80% by weight solution in water.
11. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the amount of lime is such as to provide 3-12 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the aqueous solution of the polyhydroxy compound.
12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11 effected at a temperature of 5°C-60°C.
13. A method of producing a calcium containing product comprising the steps of:
- (a) preparing a solution of calcium ions according to the procedure of any one of claims 1 to 12; and
 - (b) adding to the solution from (a) a precipitating agent which causes precipitation of the desired calcium containing product.
14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the precipitating agent is carbon dioxide and the product obtained is precipitated calcium carbonate.
15. A method of producing precipitated calcium carbonate from carbide lime comprising:
- (a) treating the carbide lime with an aqueous solution of sorbitol to extract calcium from the carbide lime;
 - (b) separating the insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (a); and
 - (c) treating the solution resulting from (b) with carbon dioxide.

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AMENDED SHEET